SMITHSONIAN

Zoogoer

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ZOO

2011 CALENDAR

A Year for Forests

The United Nations has declared 2011 to be the **International Year of Forests.**

Centers of biodiversity, forests are home to 90 percent of the world's terrestrial species. And they are vanishing. Forests once covered almost half the land on Earth; today less than a third remains wooded. Each year, people clear another 50,000 square miles of forest, displacing thousands of species and releasing excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The UN's Year of Forests aims to promote global conservation, a goal at one with the mission of the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

At the Zoo, staff members have re-created a variety of forests. In Amazonia, titi monkeys, roseate spoonbills, and vibrant poison arrow frogs interact in an open habitat that mimics the Amazon rainforest where they live in the wild. Tropical forests are also represented in Think Tank and the Great Ape House, where the western lowland gorillas and orangutans are able to climb and nest.

Asia Trail is home to many forest dwellers, including clouded leopards and sloth bears, both of which rely on temperate forests for food and shelter. The Zoo's Asian elephants, whose wild cousins dwell in tropical forests, are settling into a new home that offers them plenty of opportunities to forage, as they would in the wild.

The Zoo's best known residents are also forest creatures. Giant pandas live in the temperate coniferous forests of central China and subsist predominantly on a diet of bamboo that grows in these forests. As the forests in the region continue to be cut down, the panda's survival is threatened. Fewer than 2,000 are thought to remain in the world.

Throughout 2010, the Zoo welcomed several new forest residents to its campuses. In early January, the Zoo bred strawberry dart frogs, which live in rainforests, for the first time. February brought the birth, at the Front Royal campus, of a pair of male clouded leopards. Later in the year, two female brown kiwis, native to the forests of New Zealand, hatched in the Bird House. Triumphs like these help foster the Zoo's message of protecting biodiversity and will serve as examples of species conservation in the years to come.

Each month, this Friends of the National Zoo calendar will introduce you to another forest animal in the Zoo's collection. We hope these glimpses of woodland life will deepen your appreciation for Earth's fragile forests—and your determination to conserve them.

Bear photo and cover photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

HELP THE HERD

When you contribute $250 or more to Elephant Trails a brick—with your name on it—will be installed into the foundation of this ground-breaking exhibit.

YOUR NAME HERE

Elephant Trails: A Campaign to Save Asian Elephants is a comprehensive breeding, education, and scientific research program designed to help scientists care for elephants in zoos and save them in the wild. The cornerstone of this effort is a new, expanded home for elephants at the Zoo. Donate at www.fonz.org/bricks.htm and leave your mark on the Smithsonian's National Zoo today!

All bricks will be installed in the finished Elephant Trails exhibit area. Exhibit completion estimated 2013.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				December 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**February 2011** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25 **FONZ Summer Camp Priority Registration Begins**	26	27	28	29

Classified as carnivores, **giant pandas** occasionally eat small rodents in the wild. Yet they are almost exclusively vegetarian, feasting on greenery in the bamboo forests of central China. As the forests fall, pandas are losing both their homes and their major food source.

Photo: Ann Batdorf/NZP

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Black History Month begins **FONZ Summer Camp Registration begins**	2 Groundhog Day	3 Chinese New Year	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents' Day	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26
27	28					

January 2011

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 2011

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27	28	29	30	31		

In their South American rainforest habitat, **blue poison dart frogs** secrete poison through their skin, making them lethal to predators. Captive frogs, in contrast, are generally not toxic, leading scientists to hypothesize that the frogs accumulate poison from insects they eat in the wild.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Women's History Month begins	2 **National Zoological Park established, 1889**	3	4	5
6	7	8 Mardi Gras	9 Ash Wednesday	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time begins	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Vernal Equinox	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 **Snore & Roar Priority Registration begins**	30	31		

February 2011

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27	28					

April 2011

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Emerald tree boas spend the majority of their time coiled in trees in the forests of South America. During the day, they sleep with their heads at the center of the coil. At night, they unwind slightly and position their heads toward the ground in order to catch their next meal.

Photo: Jessie Cohen/NZP

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			March 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 April Fools' Day **Zoo Summer Hours begin**	2
3	4	5 **Snore & Roar Registration begins**	6	7	8	9
10 **FONZ founded, 1958**	11	12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16
17 Palm Sunday	18 Passover begins at sundown	19	20	21	22 Good Friday Earth Day	23
24 Easter	25	26	27	28	29 Arbor Day	30

Living throughout Madagascar, **red-fronted lemurs** travel through deciduous forests in family groups. The lemurs use all four limbs to climb trees, sometimes leaping from branch to branch in search of fruit. Deforestation menaces these arboreal animals.

Photo: Ann Baldorf/NZP

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Asian Pacific Heritage month begins	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 International Migratory Bird Day
15	16	17	18	19 **ZooFari**	20 Endangered Species Day	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

April 2011

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June 2011

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Giant herbivores, **Asian elephants** live in a variety of tropical woodlands, including teak and evergreen forests. In the wild, they eat grasses, herbs, leaves, fruit, and bark. At the Zoo, they eat 125 pounds of hay daily, along with herbivore pellets, produce, and leafy branches.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Gay Pride Month begins	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 **Summer Safari Day Camp begins**	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2011

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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July 2011

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31						

In 2001, only six known **Bali mynahs** were left in the wild, all in a single national park in Indonesia, where they are endemic. Since then, the wild population has risen to about 140. Another thousand or so of these gleaming white birds live in captivity.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			June 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 **FONZ Nature Camp begins**	11	12	13	14 **Brew at the Zoo**	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Two-toed sloths spend almost their entire lives hanging upside-down from trees. Long claws enable the slow-moving mammals to grasp branches, and algae growing on their fur provide camouflage against greenery. Now and then, sloths drop into water—and prove adept swimmers.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Ramadan begins	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July 2011

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2011

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Round noses and short limbs may make **prehensile-tailed porcupines** look cute, but the creatures are surprisingly ferocious in the wild. If threatened, they don't hesitate to bite or hit. They sleep by day in the forest canopy, then scavenge for food on the ground by night.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		August 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**October 2011** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 Grandparents' Day	12	13	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 **Grapes With the Apes**	23 Autumnal Equinox	24
25	26	27	28 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	29	30	

Living only in a small area of southern Madagascar, **radiated tortoises** are severely endangered due to habitat loss, poaching for food, and the black market pet trade. To startle and dissuade predators, a tortoise releases a high-pitched cry for up to an hour after it is captured.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				September 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**November 2011** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 **Autumn Conservation Festival (SCBI)**
2 **Autumn Conservation Festival (SCBI)**	3	4	5	6	7 Yom Kippur begins at sundown	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 **Boo at the Zoo**	22 **Boo at the Zoo**
23 **Boo at the Zoo**	24	25 **Birthday Party Priority Registration begins**	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

Aptly named, the **goliath bird-eating tarantula** is Earth's largest spider, about the size of a dinner plate. It occasionally eats young birds and other small vertebrates, but the spider's main diet consists of insects and other invertebrates. The spider kills by injecting venom into its prey.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 American Indian Heritage Month begins **Birthday Party Registration begins** **Zoo Winter Hours begin**	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time ends	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2011

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December 2011

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

With a name that translates to "person of the forest," **orangutans** have adeptly adapted to life in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra. Large throat sacs allow their calls to resonate through the trees, and long arms help them climb and swing from branch to branch.

Photo: Richard Weiblinger

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		November 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**January 2012** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Hanukkah begins at sundown	21	22 Winter Solstice	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28 **Endangered Species Act passed, 1973**	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Smallest tiger subspecies, **Sumatran tigers** patrol a shrinking rainforest habitat in western Indonesia. They may travel six to twenty miles a night in search of prey, catching a meal only once in every ten to twenty attempts. Only about 300 to 600 Sumatran tigers survive in the wild.

Photo: Mehgan Murphy/NZP

DECEMBER

FONZ
Friends of the National Zoo

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